and National Insurance Co. Ltd. have already been filled up. All necessary steps are being taken by the Government to fill in the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, United India Insurance Co. Ltd.

**Export of Jute**

397. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of jute;

(b) the total amount worth jute goods exported during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of the projections made for the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Government has taken a number of measures to boost the export of jute and jute goods to various international markets, vis, participation in international fairs, organising buyers'- sellers' meets, liaising with importers and the users, funding R and D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products to suit consumer preferences, External Market Assistance Scheme, setting up of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, launching of the UNDP assisted National Jute Development Programme to focus attention on market promotion of jute diversified products.

(b) The amount worth of jute goods exported during the last three years was as follows :

| Year | Amount (Rs./crores) |
|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 380.00 |
| 1994-95 | 480.00 |
| 1995-96 | 634.00 |

(c) The Government has projected an export target of jute goods worth US $ 180 million (Rs. 630 crores approximately) for the year 1996-97.

*[Translation]*

**World Bank Assistance for the Abolition of Corruption**

398. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Bharstachar Khatm Karne mein Vishwa Bank Madad Karega, as appeared in the Nav Bharat Times dated October 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the manner in which the World Bank proposed to assist India in the elimination of corruption; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The topic of corruption in India was not raised by the World Bank President or any other Bank official with Government of India during Mr. Wolfensohn's visit to India in October 1996 or subsequently.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Foreign Exchange**

399. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

The amount of foreign exchange granted for business, Foreign Trips, Medical, Religion and trade fair purposes, separately during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Information is being collected from RBI to the extent RBI and its Regional Offices have released foreign exchange for the purposes asked for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

In the wake of economic liberalisation, powers have been delegated to Authorised Dealers to release admissible foreign exchange for business, foreign trips, medical, religion and trade fair purposes. There are 103 banks and other institutions who have been issued licences to deal in foreign exchange. These banks and institutions have 27,806 foreign exchange dealing branches spread all over India. It will involve a great effort and time to collect the information and the purpose achieved will not be commensurate with the efforts put in.

**Export of Iron ore by MMTC**

400. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of iron-ore exported and the foreign exchange earned thereform by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) whether a greater emphasis has been laid by the MMTC to increase the export of iron-ore during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target set for export of iron-ore by MMTC and the achievements made so far during the Eighth Plan period;

(d) the details of countries to whom iron-ore is being exported at present; and

(e) the details of countries with whom negotiations have been made to export iron-ore?